

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Upon entry by the Examiner, this listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) A shipping container tracking system, comprising:
at least one shipping container sensor adapted to be attached to a first shipping container to sense a national security condition of said first shipping container;
a first communication adapter associated with said first shipping container constructed and arranged to adaptively communicate said national security condition of said first shipping container with a second communication adapter associated with a second shipping container; and

a central database to receive said at least one shipping container sensor data[[,]];

wherein[[(:]] said central database verifies a content of said first shipping container by processing said national security condition of said first shipping container against a shipping manifest database.

10. (previously presented) A shipping container tracking system,
comprising:

at least one shipping container sensor adapted to be attached to a first shipping container to sense at least one of a condition of said first shipping container and a condition of at least one item within said first shipping container;

a shipping container communication adapter to adaptively communicate with a second shipping container; and

a line of intermediary communications buoys placed at sea at appropriate locations to at least one of test said container tracking system functionality and to detect anomalies at a safe distance from port facilities.

11-18. (canceled)

19. (currently amended) A method of distributing data obtained from sensors adaptively attached to a shipping container comprising:

establishing a network connection between a first shipping container and a second shipping container;

transmitting sensor data from said first shipping container to said second shipping container if said sensor attached to said first shipping container detects a hazard and said first shipping container is unable to transmit its sensor data to at least one of an off ship transmission path and a shipboard system; and

at least one of testing and detecting a container tracking system functionality and anomalies at a safe distance from port facilities by a line of intermediary communications buoys placed at sea at appropriate locations [[to]].

20-33. (canceled)